

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

5. (New) A method for operating a hydrogen test leak unit comprising the steps of:

disposing a membrane into a chamber of the hydrogen test leak unit; and
introducing a test gas mixture of hydrogen and at least one added gas wherein the added gas has a permeation coefficient (P) relative to the material of the membrane ranging between 50 % and 200 % of that of hydrogen.

6. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of the group comprising helium, carbon dioxide and methane is selected as the added gas.

7. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the added gas is oxygen-free.

8. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the hydrogen content of the test gas mixture is lower than 10 %.